MONTANA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Chapter 116 1993

Bill H _____ S 25 Original bill & history ✓ C

H. Committee on Local Gov't.		S. Committee on Local Gov't.	
Hearing Date(s) _____	C	Hearing Date(s) _____	C
3/4	✓ C	1/7	✓ C
_____	C	1/12	✓ C
_____	C	_____	C
Date Out 3/4	✓ C	out 1/15	✓

Did this bill originate in an interim committee? ___ Yes ___ No

Committee _____ Report _____

SB 24 INTRODUCED BY BLAYLOCK

CLARIFY THAT EMPLOYER-PAID INSURANCE PREMIUMS ARE NOT MARITAL DISCRIMINATION

12/23	INTRODUCED		
12/23	REFERRED TO BUSINESS & INDUSTRY		
1/04	FIRST READING		
1/06	HEARING		
1/08	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL PASSED AS AMENDED		
1/09	2ND READING PASSED	47	1
1/11	3RD READING PASSED	48	1
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
1/12	FIRST READING		
1/12	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY		
1/21	HEARING		
1/22	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL CONCURRED		
1/25	2ND READING CONCURRED	95	3
1/27	3RD READING CONCURRED	93	4
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
1/30	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
2/01	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
2/01	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
2/02	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 13		
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/01/93		

SB 25 INTRODUCED BY VAUGHN

AUTHORIZE MULTIJURISDICTIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE DISPATCH SERVICES

12/23	INTRODUCED		
12/23	REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
1/04	FIRST READING		
1/04	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/07	HEARING		
1/11	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
1/11	FISCAL NOTE PRINTED		
1/15	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL PASSED AS AMENDED		
1/16	2ND READING PASSED	47	0
1/18	3RD READING PASSED	48	0
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
1/19	FIRST READING		
1/19	REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
3/04	HEARING		
3/05	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL CONCURRED		
3/08	2ND READING CONCURRED	95	5
3/10	3RD READING CONCURRED	98	1
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
3/13	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
3/15	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
3/16	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
3/18	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 116		
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/18/93		

SB 26 INTRODUCED BY KENNEDY

REQUIRE FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS TO COMPLETE BIG GAME DRAWINGS AND PERMITTEE NOTICE BY JULY 1

12/23	INTRODUCED		

SENATE BILL NO. 25

INTRODUCED BY VAUGHN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING A MULTIJURISDICTIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE DISPATCH SERVICES; AND AMENDING SECTION 7-11-1102, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 7-11-1102, MCA, is amended to read:

"**7-11-1102. Services that may be provided.** (1) A multijurisdictional service district may provide only those services that are authorized to be provided by local governments.

(2) The services that a multijurisdictional service district may provide are:

(a) recreation programs other than park and recreation programs in a county park district established under Title 7, chapter 16, part 24;

(b) road, street, and highway maintenance;

(c) libraries;

(d) jails;

(e) dog control programs; and

(f) ambulance service; and

(g) dispatch service."

-End-

SB 25
INTRODUCED BILL

Vote:

Motion that SB 8 DO PASS AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion:

While the Committee waited for the return of Senator Vaughn from another Committee to proceed with SB 25, the Committee heard a presentation from Dr. Ken Weaver, Director, and Ms. Judy Mathre, Assistant Director, of the Montana Local Government Policy Center from Montana State University. Dr. Weaver and Ms. Mathre spoke from prepared text and gave an overview of the resources available to the Committee from the Policy Center. (Exhibit #2)

HEARING ON SB 25

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Vaughn, Senate District 1, stated her bill would permit multijurisdictional service districts to provide dispatch services. This addition was drafted at the request of individuals in Senator Vaughn's community who cannot find the volunteer help necessary to provide emergency dispatch services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Giving smaller communities the authority to set up dispatch services would allow them to pay volunteers who work on holidays, Sundays and the graveyard shift. Senator Vaughn added this district would have to be established like any other district and would require no state funding. The districts would be solely responsible for paying for these services on a mill levy basis. Senator Vaughn concluded she has had complete support from rural counties and communities who would be affected by this bill.

Proponents' Testimony:

Senator Vaughn presented a statement of support for SB 25 from Mr. Clifford Halls, President, Halls Emergency Ambulance. (Exhibit #3)

Mr. Gordon Morris, Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo), spoke in support of SB 25. He added the language of the bill is problematic for smaller counties, especially Section 2. In 1985, when this bill was introduced, it was the position of MACo that the multijurisdictional service district be afforded in the context of aiding authorized service the local government is currently authorized to provide. Mr. Morris concluded had the bill been written this way, local governments would not have to come back each legislative session to add services.

Mr. Alec Hansen with the League of Cities and Towns, spoke in support adding dispatch services to SB 25 as a logical, legitimate and necessary inclusion. He believes the addition of these services is another way of promoting cooperation, consolidation and more efficient and equitable delivery of services.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Waterman noted during the last legislative session when the Committee added ambulance services to the list of services which could be provided, the Committee asked the same question as to why they could not just grant smaller areas the authority to make these decisions. Doing so would save the state money, but Senator Waterman wanted to know from others if counties would abuse this authority if it was given to them. Mr. Morris replied a more general grant of authority would allow them to do on a group basis what they are already individually authorized to do. He stated there are multijurisdictional services in existence providing these services, and it could be argued this authority already exists in the code.

Senator Waterman asked what would happen if the Committee decided to strike Section 2 from the bill. Sen Eck replied there would probably have to be some language repealing Section 2. Connie Erickson said the Committee could strike subsection 2 so it would read "a multijurisdictional service district may provide only those services that are authorized to be provided by local governments." Senator Swift noted doing so would make the bill no longer agree with its title. Connie Erickson suggested the Committee amend the title and asked for some time to prepare this amendment.

Senator Gage stated the whole bill was misleading because on the one hand multijurisdictional services can perform all the services a local government can perform and then the bill lists specifically the services they can perform. He said it might be better to instead include those services they would not be allowed to perform. Senator Gage stated he was in favor of creating more multijurisdictional service districts.

Senator Rye asked Mr. Morris and Mr. Hansen their opinion of changing the bill to list what services could not be performed.

Mr. Hansen agreed and stated during the 1985 legislative session when this bill was created, there was some fear the cities and counties would run amok with their new found authority. Subsequently, the bill was drafted carefully to prevent this. Mr. Hansen supported changing the bill as suggested by Senators Waterman, Rye, and Gage and noted this bill is underutilized and was originally intended to create recreation districts. He said the critical distinction is this bill would not only allow cities and counties to combine but would also allow the creation of a district that is within the boundaries of a county where a portion of the city and a portion of the county. Mr. Hansen concluded the district is not just a city-county operation but a city and a portion of a county operation.

Senator Waterman asked Mr. Hansen about the procedure required to establish multijurisdictional services. Mr. Hansen replied the process was lengthy and open to public participation. Mr. Morris agreed with Mr. Hansen in his support for giving local governments broader authority to provide multijurisdictional services.

Senator Gage stated most of the opposition to granting broader authority was merely turf protection and asked Mr. Morris about the existence of statutes regarding multijurisdictional services between counties. He asked if the Committee would need to add a sentence specifying these multijurisdictional services may be between or within counties. Mr. Morris replied the law provides for multijurisdictional service districts period which includes county to county districts, county to city districts and special district districts. He said the counties are already using their discretion to set up districts as needed and noted counties are currently doing this with juvenile detention. Mr. Morris also noted this broad grant of authority carries with it taxing authority.

Senator Waterman asked Mr. Morris whether or not these entities already had this taxing authority and would doing this only permit it on a more streamlined basis. Mr. Morris agreed. Senator Bartlett added these districts' levies must be approved by the county commission before they can be incorporated into the budget.

Senator Eck asked Ms. Mathre about the study done on consolidation of services and whether or not the study examined service districts. Ms. Mathre replied the study focused on examining the law to determine what restrictions existed. It was the conclusion of the Local Government Center there were hardly any restrictions to prevent cooperation from occurring. Senator Eck added many senators are interested in the idea of saving money by getting counties and cities to work together in providing services.

Senator Kennedy asked Senator Vaughn whether or not she would mind if the Committee played around with the bill to possibly

incorporate some of these suggestions. Senator Vaughn stated she did not object as long as the authority to create multijurisdictional dispatch service districts was integrated into the bill during this session. Senator Kennedy noted to the Committee this bill required a fiscal note, however, it was not clear why one was required.

Senator Kennedy requested the Committee allow him to hold this hearing open to give Connie Erickson until next Tuesday (1/11) to report back to the members on the suggestion of granting broader authority to counties wishing to establish multijurisdictional service districts.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Vaughn agreed to close on SB 25 next Tuesday, January 11th.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 2:25 p.m.

SENATOR JOHN "ED" KENNEDY, Chair

ROSALYN COOPERMAN, Secretary

JEK/rlc

ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEE Local Government DATE 1-7-93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator John "Ed" Kennedy	✓		
Senator Sue Bartlett	✓		
Senator Dorothy Eck	✓		
Senator Delwyn Gage	✓		
Senator Ethel Harding	✓		
Senator John Hertel	✓		
Senator David Rye	✓		
Senator Bernie Swift	✓		
Senator Mignon Waterman	✓		
Senator Jeff Weldon	✓		
Senator Eleanor Vaughn	✓		

FC08

Attach to each day's minutes

DATE 1-7-93

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Local Government

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: Senate Bill 8, 25

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Check One Support	Oppose
LINDA DAVIS		8	✓	
PAM DAVIS		8	✓	
Bob Davis	Broadwater County	8	✓	
Arnie Gettel	Teton County	8		
Gordon Morris	MACo	8/25	✓	
Ken Weaver	Loc Gov GR	—	—	—
Alec Hansen	MLCT	SB-25	✓	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

F10

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 1-7-93
BILL NO. SB 25

Memorandum

To: SENATOR ELEANOR VAUGHN

From: CLIFFORD C. HALLS, PRESIDENT
HALLS EMERGENCY AMBULANCE

Date: 01/07/93

Subject: SENATE BILL 25

DEAR SENATOR VAUGHN:

AS A MEMBER OF THE GALLATIN COUNTY DISPATCH ADVISORY BOARD, I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL 25. AS THE DEMAND FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES INCREASES, THE NEED FOR DISPOATCH CENTERS IS GREATER THEN EVER. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SMALL AGENCIES TO PROVIDE A CENTRAL DISPATCH BY THEMSELVES. SENATE BILL 25 WILL PROVIDE A METHOD TO FUND CENTRAL DISPATCH CENTERS .

THANK YOU.

most of the financial burdens off the county by permitting them to abandon marginal roads. He concluded SB 49 and 50 give the counties more responsibility in making decisions about county roads.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 25

Discussion:

Senator Vaughn stated the purpose of her bill was to add dispatch services to the services a multijurisdictional service district may provide. She noted the Committee had discussed the possibility of striking subsection 2 to give districts the authority to determine what services they need to provide. She said there has been some concern voiced as to whether or not districts would run wild with their new-found authority but added only two new districts have been added since the creation of the bill. Senator Vaughn concluded she does not want to jeopardize the addition of dispatch services to the list.

Connie Erickson stated she examined three issues pertaining to SB 25: why services were listed in the first place; why ambulance services were added in 1991 instead of striking subsection 2 which lists the services to be provided as suggested by this committee; and, what does deletion of subsection 2 do to the title of SB 25. Ms. Erickson said she examined minutes from 1985 when the law was enacted and found the bill, as originally drafted, did not have a list of services. She added when the bill was presented for hearing in the House Local Government Committee, the sponsor of the bill presented amendments which listed the services. Ms. Erickson stated she was unable to determine from the minutes the reason why a list of services were added. She said in the 1991 session, Senator John Anderson sponsored a bill to add ambulance services at the request of the City of West Yellowstone. Ms. Erickson said again the committee had the discussion as to why the list of services was needed in the bill but decided against deleting subsection 2 for fear the bill would not pass and ambulance services would not be included. Ms. Erickson stated should the Committee decide to amend SB 25 to remove subsection 2, it would still fit the title and would not need to be further amended. For that reason, she concluded, she did not draft any amendments to SB 25.

Senator Eck asked if fire districts would be included in multijurisdictional services if the list of services was deleted from SB 25. She said fire districts are clearly specified in law so she was unsure as to whether or not SB 25 would apply to them. Connie Erickson stated fire districts would be unable to create multijurisdictional districts because it is not on the list of services they may provide. She added the law states "municipalities and counties may form jurisdictional services to provide" and then lists specific services. Ms. Erickson said

should the Committee decide to delete subsection 2 multijurisdictional services could provide fire, hospital, cemetery, weed control, conservation, mosquito, park, and water and sewer districts. Senator Bartlett stated she would not be concerned about fire districts since they all have mutual aid agreements. She said a small fire district exists just west of Helena and their contract includes a provision in the law for the board of county commissioners to remain fire district trustees and contract with the City of Helena for fire services.

Senator Bartlett stated her concern for deleting subsection 2 from SB 25 because it may be perceived by some people as a way to allow local governments to establish multijurisdictional service districts that would take existing services out from under the I-105 property tax limit. She believes this perception that multijurisdictional service districts could move to a fee-for-service basis would jeopardize SB 25. Senator Bartlett concluded she would prefer to leave SB 25 as introduced by Senator Vaughn as not to jeopardize the addition of dispatch services.

Senator Waterman agreed with the arguments raised by Committee members but stated there is a point at which state government must trust local government to determine what they need to provide.

Senator Vaughn stated deleting the list of services as mentioned in subsection 2 would not change the process by which multijurisdictional service districts are created. She concluded she would support the suggestion to delete subsection 2 if the rest of the Committee felt secure it would not jeopardize the addition of dispatch services. Senator Waterman stated it would be possible to have the House refer SB 25 back to the Senate Local Government Committee or amend it back to its original form should the SB 25 appear likely to be killed. Senator Kennedy stated the Committee could pass SB 25 and then Senator Vaughn could present both options to the House Local Government Committee.

Motion:

Senator Waterman moved to amend SB 25 to delete subsection 2 which lists the services a multijurisdictional service district may provide.

Discussion:

Senator Rye asked if Senator Waterman moved to delete all of subsection 2 including line 24 which says "dispatch services". He said it was his impression the Committee was going to ratify existing law and not do anything else. Connie Erickson stated multijurisdictional service districts could provide only those services that are authorized to be provided by local governments period if the Committee deleted subsection 2 of SB 25.

Senator Eck stated she supported the motion but added she hoped the Committee would speak to their colleagues on the House Local Government Committee to make them aware of the desire of the Senate Committee to make sure dispatch services are included in the bill.

Senator Vaughn asked whether or not the addition of dispatch services to multijurisdictional service districts would be problematic since these services have always been volunteered, not paid. Connie Erickson asked if dispatch services are the same as 911 which is funded by money taken from Montana residents' monthly phone bills. Senator Vaughn stated dispatch services include all emergency calls like fire and ambulance calls.

Senator Gage stated the law does not stipulate how the services may be provided just that they should be provided. He asked if Senator Waterman's motion to amend SB 25 to strike subsection 2 would also pertain to the title. Senator Waterman said it would. Connie Erickson reminded the Committee the title would not have to be changed should they decide to delete subsection 2.

Connie Erickson said she assumed the counties could provide dispatch services but asked Mr. Morris of his opinion on the matter. Mr. Morris replied counties are providing dispatch services on an agreement with the cities and/or the state Highway Patrol. Mr. Morris added he was unaware of the volunteer situation in Senator Vaughn's area but stated the counties have the authority to fund the service in a variety of ways. He concluded the passage of this bill would allow counties to set up these multijurisdictional service districts with separate taxing authority. Mr. Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns, stated it was his opinion dispatch services were a legitimate function of a municipal government and would qualify under the definition of what local governments are authorized to provide. Mr. Hansen stated he was not entirely certain of this, and asked the committee for some time to find out.

Senator Kennedy asked if the Committee would mind waiting until the next Committee hearing to take executive action on SB 25 and asked Connie Erickson to look into the statements made by Mr. Hansen. The Committee decided to delay executive action on SB 25 until the next Committee hearing.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 10

Motion/Vote:

Senator Harding moved SB 10 DO PASS. Senator Gage made a substitute motion to amend SB 10 to include an immediate effective date on passage and approval. Senator Gage's motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion:

Connie Erickson stated the Committee could pass SB 10 out since the amendment would only add an immediate effective date.

Motion:

Senator Gage moved SB 10 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Discussion:

Senator Bartlett asked Connie Erickson if there was another section, other than the one mentioned in SB 10, which allows for county park levies. Ms. Erickson replied it was the only one unless it is a park district.

Vote:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 25

Discussion:

Connie Erickson stated there was some concern from the Committee as to whether or not dispatch services would be provided if subsection 2 was removed from SB 25. She stated dispatch services involves fire, ambulance and law enforcement which are all authorized under Title 7. Ms. Erickson concluded dispatch services would be included if the Committee removed subsection 2 from SB 25, however, she added, this deletion could potentially cause some controversy.

Senator Vaughn asked what would happen if the Committee struck subsection 2, including the provision for dispatch services, and then the House or Senate insisted in restoring subsection 2 without the dispatch services included. Connie Erickson stated if subsection 2 was amended back into SB 25 without the dispatch

services, the services would probably not be authorized. Senator Vaughn stated this was precisely her concern. Ms. Erickson said the Committee may want to consider putting in a bill draft request in the next session to remove subsection 2 from SB 25. Senator Eck stated she was not concerned if the House amended subsection 2 back into SB 25 because they could not do so without including dispatch services since its inclusion was the purpose of SB 25. She said SB 25 does not exist without the provision for dispatch services.

Senator Weldon asked Connie Erickson if a description of the services authorized to be provided by local governments existed in any statute. Ms. Erickson replied references to authorized services are made throughout Title 7, however, they are not contained in a single location. Senator Weldon suggested the Committee table SB 25 and come up with a Committee bill which strikes subsection 2. He said the Committee would then send the bill through the Senate and the House, and, if at any phase the substitute bill looked to be in trouble, the Committee would then resurrect SB 25 and run it through the appropriate channels. Connie Erickson said the Committee could table any bill and then act on it as long as the Committee has not killed the bill. She added the Committee can also request a committee bill before February 13th but stated there could be a problem running up against transmittal. Ms. Erickson concluded Senator Weldon's strategy for SB 25 was procedurally correct but could be difficult to implement. Senator Rye complimented Senator Weldon on his imaginative strategy, however, he said there should be a simpler and more direct way to authorize dispatch services. He suggested the Committee proceed with SB 25 in whatever form Senator Vaughn preferred.

Senator Swift asked if the language in the title would have to be changed if the Committee struck subsection 2 from SB 25. Connie Erickson stated the Committee could remove subsection 2 and still remain within the scope of the title as long as "dispatch services" was removed from the title of SB 25. Senator Vaughn again stated she wanted to be sure dispatch services were included in the list of services authorized to be performed by local governments, even if the Committee did strike subsection 2.

Mr. Morris suggested the Committee pass SB 25 as introduced and let the House consider the possibility of a favorable amendment which would strike subsection 2. He said in the event the House or Senate did not wish to delete subsection 2 from the bill, SB 25 would probably still pass and dispatch services would be added to the list of authorized services.

Senator Gage asked Connie Erickson of the intent of the original bill which authorized services to be provided by local governments. Ms. Erickson replied the bill was introduced in 1985 without a list of services authorized to be provided. She said when the bill was heard in the House Local Government Committee, the sponsor of the bill then introduced an amendment to list the

services authorized to be provided. Ms. Erickson said she could find no reference in the minutes as to why the amendment was offered. Senator Gage suggested the Committee adopt Mr. Morris' suggestion to pass SB 25 as is and then see if the House adopts an amendment to strike subsection 2.

Motion/Vote:

Senator Gage moved the Committee amend SB 25 to include an immediate effective date. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion/Vote:

Senator Swift moved SB 25 DO PASS AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 52

Discussion:

Connie Erickson stated there was one set of amendments to SB 52 which would add the county bridge fund to the available funds to which a county could credit any interest earned by those funds. (Exhibit #6) She said the amendments met with the approval of the sponsor, Senator Devlin.

Motion/Vote:

Senator Weldon moved the amendment to add the county bridge fund to SB 52. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion:

Senator Harding move SB 52 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Discussion:

Senator Gage suggested the Committee amend SB 52 to add an immediate effective date. Connie Erickson replied she did not think SB 52 needed an immediate effective date since SB 52 pertains to investments, not tax levies. She said new codes are not published until September or October which is the reason why most law does not become effective until October 1st. Ms. Erickson said when law goes into immediate effect many people will not become aware of the changes until the updated code books are published. She concluded an immediate effective date would not be of much value to SB 52.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 15, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Local Government having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 25 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Bill No. 25 be amended as follows and as so amended do pass.

Signed: _____
John "Ed" Kennedy, Jr., Chair

That such amendments read:

1. Title, line 6.
Strike: "AND"
Following: "MCA"
Insert: "; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE"

2. Page 1, following line 24.
Insert: " NEW SECTION. Section 2. {standard} Effective date.
[This act] is effective on passage and approval."

-END-

Amd. Coord.
Sec. of Senate

111153SC.San

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN NORM WALLIN**, on March 4, 1993, at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Norm Wallin, Chairman (R)
Rep. Ray Brandewie, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Ellen Bergman (R)
Rep. John Bohlinger (R)
Rep. Dave Brown (D)
Rep. Tim Dowell (D)
Rep. Dave Ewer (D)
Rep. Stella Jean Hansen (D)
Rep. Jack Herron (R)
Rep. Tim Sayles (R)
Rep. Liz Smith (R)
Rep. Randy Vogel (R)
Rep. Karyl Winslow (R)
Rep. Diane Wyatt (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Ed McCaffree, Rep. Sheila Rice

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Bart Campbell, Legislative Council
Pat Bennett, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: SB 25, SJR 5, SB 159, SB 273
Executive Action: SB 273, SJR 5, SB 25, SB 159

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 25

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. ELEANOR VAUGHN, SD 1, Libby, introduced SB 25 which would authorize multi-jurisdictional service districts to provide dispatch services. There are small towns who have been depending on volunteers to man the dispatch services. It has been extremely difficult getting volunteers to work the night shift, Sundays and holidays. These small towns would like to be included in the ability to have a multi-jurisdictional district

so they can establish a tax levy to pay for services performed during the times no one will volunteer. This legislation is discretionary for those who feel it is needed. **SEN. VAUGHN** assured the Committee that these towns would only levy taxes to pay for the above-mentioned times and would not levy taxes to pay for all the shifts. Those who volunteer are in agreement with this.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. VOGEL asked if it would take a vote of the people in order to levy the tax. **SEN. VAUGHN** explained that the town would form a district; then hold a public hearing, after which they would have the authority to present a budget and levy the tax.

REP. SAYLES asked if this is to replace the 911 system. **SEN. VAUGHN** replied that it would help to fill in for 911. Some areas have enough funding for 911 to pay for late-night volunteers, however, some of the local ambulance districts and fire districts do not have extra money.

REP. SAYLES asked for an example of a town or area that would need to form this district. **SEN. VAUGHN** said some examples would be Eureka, Libby, and Troy who do not have taxing jurisdiction and can only draw on volunteers. She noted that these services are of no use unmanned and emergencies do not always occur during the day. There is a need for these services 24 hours per day.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. VAUGHN closed the hearing on SB 25 suggesting that **REP. PETERSON** carry the bill.

HEARING ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. DEL GAGE, SD 55, Cut Bank, explained that SJR 5 was a study resolution requesting that during the interim the legislature study county government including the possibility of consolidation and reorganization of counties. He noted that not every town needs a jail and there is a possibility of sharing services between small towns within a county. At the end of the session the Legislative Council will request study recommendations from legislators. Within the funding available, the Council will then select a recommended study. **SEN. GAGE** said a study of reorganizing county government is needed, people are asking for a reduction in government.

juvenile center. Any outcome of the study would need to be voted on by the people. Ken Dunham did try to get this on the ballot, except he had targeted 18 counties which would be affected. This study will develop information for the counties to make decisions based on facts.

REP. WYATT said the pragmatic reality is that the study would probably not be funded anyway because major money is being cut. She stated that she did not choose to spend $50,000 on this study when it cannot be spent elsewhere. In terms of priority, should five studies come out of the session, only one or two will be funded and it would be highly unlikely this study would be one of them.

REP. SAYLES said he would prefer the study address consolidation of counties and cities. Missoula would benefit from the consolidation of counties and cities.

Mr. Campbell informed the Committee that he understood the amendment to include "cities and counties" but added he would need to research the amendment first.

REP. VOGEL speaking against the amendment explained that Yellowstone County had approximately six cities and it would not be feasible to combine them.

Motion/Vote: **REP. SAYLES** moved to amend SJR 5 to include "cities and counties." Motion failed 11-3 with **REPS. SAYLES, BOHLINGER** and **BERGMAN** voting in favor.

Motion/Vote: **REP. BROWN** moved to table SJR 5. Motion carried on an 11-5 roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 25

Discussion: **REP. MARY LOU PETERSON** will carry SB 25 on the House floor.

Motion/Vote: **REP. BRANDEWIE MOVED SB 25 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried 13-3, with **REPS. HERRON, WINSLOW** and **VOGEL** opposing.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL DATE 3/4/93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. NORM WALLIN, CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. RAY BRANDEWIE, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. ELLEN BERGMAN	✓		
REP. JOHN BOHLINGER	✓		
REP. DAVE BROWN	✓		
REP. TIM DOWELL	✓		
REP. DAVID EWER	✓		
REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN	✓		
REP. JACK HERRON	✓		
REP. ED McCAFFREE			✓
REP. SHEILA RICE			✓
REP. TIM SAYLES	✓		
REP. LIZ SMITH	✓		
REP. RANDY VOGEL	✓		
REP. KARYL WINSLOW	✓		
REP. DIANA WYATT	✓		

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE BILL NO. SB 25

DATE 3/4/93 SPONSOR(S) Senator Eleanor Vaughn

PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Gordon Morris	MACo	✓	
Alec Hansen	MLCT	✓	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.